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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

**IN RE GOOGLE PLAY STORE
ANTITRUST LITIGATION**

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

Epic Games Inc. v. Google LLC et al., Case
No. 3:20-cv-05671-JD

Match Group, LLC et al. v. Google LLC et al.,
Case No. 3:22-cv-02746-JD

Case No. 3:21-md-02981-JD

**GOOGLE'S ADMINISTRATIVE
MOTION TO FILE UNDER SEAL**

Judge: Hon. James Donato

INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Civil Local Rules 7-11 and 79-5, and Paragraphs 25-30 of this Court’s Standing Order for Civil Cases, Google Defendants (“Google”) respectfully move the Court to seal portions of Epic’s and Match’s Notice of Motion and Motion to Amend Complaints, Epic’s Second Amended Complaint, Match’s First Amended Complaint, and supporting documents. The Epic and Match Plaintiffs filed a motion to amend their complaints on October 7, 2022 (MDL Dkt. Nos. 343 and 344) and an Administrative Motion to Consider Whether Another Party’s Material Should be Sealed on October 8, 2022 (MDL Dkt. No. 345). This Administrative Motion to File Under Seal is supported by the Declaration of Christian Cramer (“Cramer Decl.”) and the Proposed Order submitted herewith.

LEGAL STANDARD

The Ninth Circuit holds that sealing is appropriate where the “party seeking to seal a judicial record” demonstrates “compelling reasons” that outweigh the “general history of access and the public policies favoring disclosure.” *Kamakana v. City & Cty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178-79 (9th Cir. 2006) (quotation marks omitted). Compelling reasons may exist where, by way of example, the material to be disclosed includes “trade secrets,”¹ “confidential contracts,”² “contract negotiations,”³ “long-term financial projections,”⁴ discussions of business strategy,”⁵ “business information that might harm a litigant’s competitive standing,”⁶ or personally identifiable information.⁷ Moreover, public release of “detailed financial information” can implicate a “significant interest” of a party because it could lead to competitive harm, such as ceding “an advantage in contract negotiations.” *See Apple Inc. v. Samsung Elecs.*

¹ *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179.

² *Fed. Trade Comm’n v. Qualcomm Inc.*, No. 17-CV-00220-LHK, 2019 WL 95922, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 3, 2019).

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Krieger v. Atheros Commc’ns, Inc.*, No. 11-CV-00640-LHK, 2011 WL 2550831, at *1 (N.D. Cal. June 25, 2011).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Ctr. For Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1097 (9th Cir. 2016) (quoting *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598-99 (1978)).

⁷ *Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2*; *Snapkeys, Ltd. v. Google LLC*, No. 19-CV-02658-LHK, 2021 WL 1951250, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 14, 2021); *Sameer v. Khera*, No. 117CV01748DADEPG, 2018 WL 4772035, at *1 (E.D. Cal. Oct. 1, 2018).

1 *Co., Ltd.*, 727 F.3d 1214, 1225 (Fed. Cir. 2013) (there are “compelling reasons” to seal if
2 disclosure would create an “advantage in contract negotiations”).

3 ARGUMENT

4 As the Ninth Circuit has stated, “[s]ecrecy is a one-way street: Once information is
5 published, it cannot be made secret again.” *In re Copley Press, Inc.*, 518 F.3d 1022, 1025 (9th
6 Cir. 2008). Recognizing that there is a presumption in favor of access to court papers, Google
7 focuses this narrow sealing request on four specific, highly sensitive areas categories of non-
8 public information. These categories of confidential materials include: (a) specific deal terms
9 (price and nonprice) of contracts with non-parties, (b) non-public financial information, (c)
10 details of negotiations and negotiation strategies with non-parties, and (d) personally identifiable
11 information (“PII”). Ninth Circuit courts have consistently held that these categories of
12 confidential, non-public information may be sealed, pursuant to the “compelling reasons”
13 standard. *See, e.g., Baird v. BlackRock Institutional Tr. Co.*, 403 F. Supp. 3d 765, 792 (N.D. Cal.
14 2019) (“Courts have found that ‘confidential business information’ in the form of ‘license
15 agreements, financial terms, details of confidential licensing negotiations, and business
16 strategies’ satisfies the ‘compelling reasons’ standard.”) (citation omitted); *In re Electronic Arts,*
17 *Inc.*, 298 F. App’x 568, 569 (9th Cir. 2008) (protecting competitive terms of a license agreement
18 “which plainly falls within the definition of ‘trade secrets’” because it provides “an opportunity
19 to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not know or use it”); *Milliner v. Bock Evans*
20 *Fin. Counsel, Ltd.*, No. 15-cv-01763-JD, 2020 WL 1492692, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 27, 2020)
21 (permitting sealing of “highly negotiated agreement” that would “expose [litigant] to competitive
22 harm” if publicly disclosed); *Johnstech Int’l Corp. v. JF Microtechnology SDN BHD*, No. 14-cv-
23 02864-JD, 2016 WL 4091388, at *2–5 (N.D. Cal. Aug. 2, 2016) (finding “compelling reasons”
24 to seal, *inter alia*, “product-specific customer data,” “detailed sales information for customers
25 that could be used to the company’s competitive disadvantage,” “competitive intelligence,” and
26 “customer-specific sales data”); *Ovonic Battery Co., Inc. v. Sanyo Elec. Co., Ltd.*, No. 14-cv-
27 01637-JD, 2014 WL 2758756, at *2 (N.D. Cal. June 17, 2014) (“Our circuit allows parties to
28

1 seal pricing terms, royalty rates, and guaranteed minimum payment terms found in a licensing
 2 agreement even under the ‘compelling reasons’ standard because that business information could
 3 ‘harm a litigant’s competitive standing.’”) (quoting *Electronic Arts*, 298 F. App’x at 569).
 4 Courts in the Ninth Circuit have also consistently held that personally identifiable information,
 5 such as home addresses, birth dates, telephone numbers, and email addresses, should be shielded
 6 from public disclosure. *See, e.g.*, Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2; *Snapkeys*, 2021 WL 1951250, at *3
 7 (granting Google’s motion to file under seal personally identifiable information of its current and
 8 former employees, including their email addresses and telephone numbers); *Sameer*, 2018 WL
 9 4772035, at *1 (holding that Plaintiff had improperly failed to properly redact home addresses
 10 and birthdays from the second amended complaint).

11 As discussed in detail in the declaration herewith, public disclosure of this information
 12 will cause severe and irreparable harm to not only Google’s business relationships and its
 13 competitive position, but also that of Google’s business partners – who are not parties to this
 14 lawsuit. Similarly, the PII of non-parties and Google’s employees is highly sensitive
 15 information, outweighing any public interest in disclosure. The following examples are
 16 illustrative.

- 17 • **Specific Deal Terms of Contracts with Non-Parties.** As described in the Cramer Decl.
 18 (*see, e.g.*, Paragraph 28), filed herewith, Epic’s Proposed Second Amended Complaint
 19 and Match’s Proposed First Amended Complaint include information that reflect specific
 20 non-public details and deal terms offered by Google to certain of its partners as part of
 21 Google’s Project Hug program. Public disclosure of these specific programs and deal
 22 terms could give Google’s competitors and developer partners an unfair advantage over
 23 Google in negotiations. Moreover, the text reveals Google’s internal strategic financial
 24 considerations underlying these non-public deals and deal terms. Public disclosure of
 25 this information is likely to result in competitive harm to Google.
- 26 • **Details of Negotiations and Negotiation Strategies with Non-Parties.** As described in
 27 the Cramer Decl. (*see, e.g.*, Paragraph 29), Epic’s and Match’s Motion to Amend
 28

1 Complaints includes information that reflects Google's non-public, competitively
2 sensitive, and current internal information, including strategic analysis about dealings
3 with certain counterparties. If disclosed, this information could cause Google harm by
4 giving competitors key insights into Google's business strategy with respect to certain
5 counterparties, and competitors could adjust their own business strategies or adopt similar
6 practices as a consequence.

- 7 • **Personally Identifiable Information.** As described in the Cramer Decl. (*see, e.g.*,
8 Paragraph 14), Exhibits C, E – F, and G of the Zaken Declaration contain personally
9 identifiable information of current or former Google employees as well as current or
10 former employees for non-parties. These employees have a reasonable expectation of
11 privacy that would be infringed upon if this information were to be made public.

12 **CONCLUSION**

13 For the foregoing reasons, Google respectfully requests that the Court seal the material
14 identified in the accompanying Declaration of Christian Cramer.

1 Dated: October 17, 2022

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5 Respectfully submitted,

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9 *Counsel for Defendants*

10 Dated: October 17, 2022

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E-FILING ATTESTATION

I, Brian C. Rocca, am the ECF User whose ID and password are being used to file this document. In compliance with Civil Local Rule 5-1(i)(3), I hereby attest that each of the signatories identified above has concurred in this filing.

/s/ Brian C. Rocca

Brian C. Rocca